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Authority EO 12958

By RT NARA Date 6-26-07

**MEMORANDUM**

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

**TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE**  
**EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY**

**May 9, 1972**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT:     Alleged Damage Done to Chinese Ships by U.S. Forces**

Acting on Dr. Kissinger's instructions, I called Mrs. Shih Yen-hua at the Chinese UN Mission in New York, at 2:20 PM today. I was told that she would be available at 3:00 PM or after.

I called again at 3:15 PM and gave her the following message:

My boss asked me to call her to get a message to her boss which we would appreciate his transmitting to his Government concerning the Peking announcement that damage had been done to Chinese ships. The United States was making an investigation of these incidents and would give the PRC a formal response through our embassy in Paris when this investigation was completed. In the meantime, we wanted them to know that if there was damage caused to Chinese ships by U.S. forces, we would of course apologize and we would pay compensation.

I then ran over this message again to make sure that she fully understood. We then said goodbye and hung up.

Winston Lord *W*

**TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE**  
**EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY**

Authority 2072738By R NARA Date 6-26-07

FBIS 60 (SUB FOR 56) \*\*\*\*\*  
B U L L E T I N

PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. ATTACKS ON CHINESE SHIPS

B091628 PEKING MCNA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1623 GMT

9 MAY 72 B

(TEXT) PEKING, MAY 9, 1972 (HSINHUA)--STATEMENT OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,  
MAY 9, 1972.

ON MAY 6, 7 AND 8, 1972 WARSHIPS AND AIRCRAFT  
OF THE UNITED STATES BRAZENLY AND REPEATEDLY ATTACKED  
TWO CHINESE MERCHANT SHIPS, "HONGQI NO. 152- AND "HONGQI  
NO. 160", WHICH WERE ANCHORED OFF THE SHORE  
OF HON NGU ISLAND OF NGHE AN PROVINCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, WOUNDING CHINESE CREW MEMBERS AND  
VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS WHO WERE ON BOARD AT THE TIME AND  
SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE BODIES OF THE SHIPS. THIS  
CONSTITUTES A GRAVE PROVOCATION AGAINST THE CHINESE  
PEOPLE. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE EXPRESS GREAT  
INDIGNATION AT THIS AND LODGE A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE  
U. S. GOVERNMENT.

THE U. S. GOVERNMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY STOP ITS  
ACTS OF PROVOCATION OF ATTACKING CHINESE MERCHANT SHIPS  
AND PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS. OTHERWISE,  
IT MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE GRAVE  
CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT  
RESERVES THE LAWFUL RIGHT TO DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR  
ITS LOSSES.

9 MAY 1652Z JAS/GG \*\*\*\*\*